

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM USLO PEKING
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0565
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1197

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR PDIP GW CH

SUBJ: PRC INTEREST IN HAMBURG CONSULATE

REF: BONN 7350

1. FRG EMBOFF HAS PROVIDED USLO WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON
POSSIBILITY OF FRG-PRC AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH CONSULATES IN
HAMBURG AND SHANGHAI(REFTEL).

2. FRG EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT BENEFITS OF ESTABLISHING SHANGHAI
CONSULATE WOULD BE MARGINAL AT BEST, PROVIDING:

--A LISTENING POST FOR POLITICAL EVENTS IN EAST CHINA (DESPITE
TH PURGE OF THE GANG OF FOUR, WHO WERE BASED IN SHANGHAI,
THE MUNICIPALITY REMAINS HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT IN THE NATIONAL
SCHEME OF THINGS; THE THREE TOP LEADERS IN SHANGHAI ARE
PARTY POLITBURO MEMBERS OR ALTERNATES);
--AN ENHANCED SENSE OF THE PEOPLE' "MOOD" AND THEIR
STANDARD OF LIVING (CITIZENS OF SHANGHAI ARE SOMEWHAT MORE
OPEN IN DEALING WITH FOREIGNERS);

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--GREATER CONVENIENCE IN GREETIN AND ASSISTING GERMAN
VISITORS (SHANGHAI IS THE USUAL PORT OF ENTRY FOR INTERNATIONAL
AIR CARRIERS); AND
--BETTER ACCESS TO GERMAN NATIONALS IN THE SHANGHAI AREA.

3. THESE BENEFITS ALONE WOULD NOT JUSTIFY RECOMMENDATION
TO ESTABLISH CONSULATE IN SHANGHAI, ACCORDING TO EMBOFF.

MOREOVER, INVESTIGATION OF POLISH AND JAPANESE EXPERIENCE IN SHANGHAI (THE ONLY TWO FOREIGN CONSULATES NOW LOCATED THERE) AND DISCUSSIONS WITH AUSTRALIANS AND CANADIANS ON THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO EXERCISE OPTION OF ESTABLISHING SHANGHAI CONSULATES HAVE GENERATED ADDITIONAL GERMAN SKEPTICISM. BASED ON RECENT EXPERIENCES OF OTHER COUNTRIES, GERMANS FORESEE TOUGH BARGAINING OVER AREA OF CONSULAR JURISDICTION AND ACCESS TO PRISONERS. (WHILE THE POLISH CONSULATE, ESTABLISHED IN THE 1950S, THEORETICALLY ENJOYS CONSULAR JURISDICTION OVER SHANGHAI AND FOUR SURROUNDING PROVINCES, THE JAPANESE CONSULATE IS LIMITED TO THE SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL AREA, AND THE MATTER OF JURISDICTION IS LEFT VAGUE FOR THE CANADIANS AND AUSTRALIANS.)

4. LIKE BONN FOREIGN OFFICE CONTACTS (REFTEL), HOWEVER, FRG EMBOFF DOES NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT THIS YEAR. ALLOWING CHINESE TO ESTABLISH CONSULATE IN HAMBURG WOULD IMPROVE OVERALL ATMOSPHERICS OF FRG-PRC RELATIONS AND SUPPORT GROWING ECONOMIC TIES. IF AGREEMENT IS GIVEN TO CHINESE, FRG EMBASSY IN PEKING WILL RECOMMEND PRIOR SETTLEMENT OF ALL DETAILS CONCERNING ULTIMATE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULATE IN SHANGHAI. THESE WOULD INCLUDE CONSULAR JURISDICTION, ACCESS TO PRISONERS, AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS. (THE JAPANESE, WHO HAD NOT SETTLED THESE MATTERS IN THE NEGOTIATING STAGE, HAVE EXPERIENCED LENGTHY DELAYS IN ACQUIRING ADEQUATE OFFICE AND LIVING SPACE; THE JAPANESE
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CONSUL GENERAL IS STILL RESIDENT IN THE PEACE HOTEL.)
WOODCOCK

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